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Upcoming Community Events

Christmas Craft Fair slated for Nov. 6 and 7 at Wellness Center

The annual Hometown Christmas Craft Fair will be Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6 and 7, at the Morgan County Wellness Center.

Hours will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7. Admission is free.

The fair will include handmade gifts, holiday decor, crafts, homemade candies, baked sweets and other unique Christmas treasures.

There will also be a holiday backdrop for pictures.

Everyone is invited to bring family and friends to this festive community event!

Annual Created For A Purpose Worship Night is Nov. 8th

The annual Created For A Purpose Worship Night will be Sunday, Nov. 8, at the Index Community Center.

The event will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will include live music, free food, door prizes and more!

Bring your family, friends and neighbors for an uplifting night of worship, encouragement and community.

For additional information contact David Vance at 606-362-8339.

MCHS Veterans Day program set Nov. 11

Morgan County High School staff and students will be hosting a Veterans Day program and luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 11.The program will begin at 9 a.m. Veterans will be recognized during the program, and lunch will be served at 11 a.m. All veterans and their families are invited to attend.

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Fiscal Court Hears Comments From Youth Soccer Reps About UK/St. Claire Clinic Pjt.

Court Votes To Leave Final Decisions Regarding Clinic To Incoming Administration

By Miranda M. Cantrell

The Morgan County Fiscal Court during a special Oct. 29 meeting heard comments from the public regarding the proposed UK St. Claire clinic's potential impact on the local youth soccer program.

Judge Executive Jim Gazay asked County Attorney Myles Holbrook to share an update on a recent meeting the lawyer had with UK St. Claire officials – including Travis Bailey, senior vice president of operations and chief strategy officer.

"They are saying that they are, of course, wanting the area behind the Wellness Center," Holbrook said. "They've had that surveyed. The survey was already done by Mr. [Joe] Curd, Morgan County surveyor.

"Basically [UK St. Claire] doesn't get the federal money until … They have to acquire the land, and that lets them get the grant. They can't get it approved unless they get the land first. We talked about that and I said that's up to the fiscal court."

Attorney Holbrook advised that prior to such a transaction, court members would need to declare their intentions in ordinance form.

Additionally, Attorney Holbrook addressed the recent controversy surrounding the proposed location, which currently serves as playing fields for the Morgan County Youth Soccer League.

"The youth soccer league is up there and I think they put some money [in the property]," Holbrook said. "Woodmen Life has also put money in. I want to stress to [UK St. Claire] that the youth soccer program – just like [UK St. Claire] – is very important to this community. We don't have to give up one to get the other.

"What we're putting in the game is pretty valuable land. How can we create an alternative to also have a thriving youth soccer program? … It's going to be up to [the fiscal court] what is going to be the future and how we are going to try to make both of these entities happy."

Judge Gazay indicated that no determination on the matter would be made in the immediate future.

"I don't think this is a decision we can make tonight," Gazay said. "I don't think this is a decision we can make in the next two months … We're going to have to have community discussions and get everybody together to work on it. I think everybody in this room wants both things – I know I do. So we have to figure out how we're

See COURT, Page 3

Bowman elected as judge executive in Nov. 3 gen. election

Scarberry is next sheriff; Sorrell is mayor-elect; Evans, Phipps, Cantrell win contested magistrate races; Potter wins school board

By Miranda M. Cantrell

Republican Kenneth Kelly Bowman was elected as Morgan County Judge Executive in Tuesday's general election by a margin of 1,186 votes over Democratic rival Walker Crase.

Unofficial results show that Bowman received a total of 2,586 votes, while Crase received 1,400 votes.

The judge executive-elect will preside over a fiscal court including two newly-elected magistrates, Ray Adkins (R), who was unopposed in District #3; and Derrick Cantrell (D), who defeated Fredrick Hutchinson (R) in District #2.

Magistrates Brandon Evans (District #4) and Leroy Phipps (District #5) retained their seats, and Magistrate Eric Pelfrey was unopposed in District #1.

Kenneth Scarberry (R) defeated Jon Paul Turner (D) to be elected as sheriff, and Lowell Adkins (D) bested Norman Rowe (I) in the jailer's race.

Brian Scalf (D) was unopposed in his campaign for constable in District #2.

Other constable winners (also unopposed) included Democrats Chris Adams (District #1), Jarred Murphy (District #4) and Ricky Stamper (District #5).

Also unopposed were Property Valuation Administrator Darby Franklin, County Attorney Myles Holbrook (R), County Clerk Randy Williams, Coroner Shawn Vancleave (D) and County Surveyor Joe Curd (D).

In city races, Grant Sorrell, a current city council member, defeated Patty Hutchinson to be elected as mayor of West Liberty.

Incumbents Dwayne Nickell, Sarah Beth Legg, Tony Smith, Mark Walter and Rusty Lindon were all re-elected to city council – along with Kyle Risner, current mayor who opted to return to the council.

See ELECTION, Page 3

Minutes from Oct. 27 fiscal court mtg. listed

Items not covered in the above UK/St. Claire clinic/youth soccer league report are noted; data center moratorium tabled until November

The following is an unofficial listing of all items approved during the special Oct. 29 meeting of the Morgan County Fiscal Court:

PRESENT MEMBERS – Magistrates Brandon Evans, Tommy Fannin, Eric Pelfrey and Leroy Phipps, and Judge Executive Jim Gazay.

ABSENT MEMBERS – Magistrate Tyler Keeton.

• ***Motion Passed –*** Approval of the minutes of the last meeting. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Tommy Fannin.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

• ***Motion Passed –*** Approval of financial statement ending Sept. 30, 2026, as presented. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Eric Pelfrey.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

• ***Motion Passed –*** Approval of changes to the budgeted chart of accounts as presented. Passed with a motion by Tommy Fannin and a second by Eric Pelfrey.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

• ***Motion Passed –*** Approval of the first reading of budget amendment #5 as presented. Passed with a motion by Eric Pelfrey and a second by Tommy Fannin.

See MINUTES, Page 3

THANK YOU VETERANS



In honor of Veterans Day on Wednesday, Nov. 11, we at The Licking Valley Courier would like to express our sincere gratitude to all veterans for your service to our country. – Editor



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